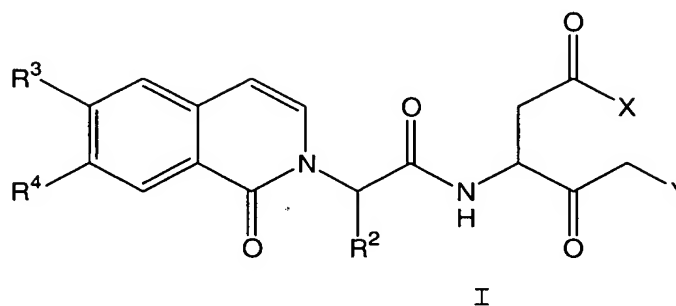


ABSTRACT

[0136] The present invention provides a compound of formula I:



wherein:

X is $-OR^1$ or $-N(R^5)_2$,

Y is halo, trifluorophenoxy, or tetrafluorophenoxy;

R^1 is:

10 C_{1-6} straight chained or branched alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl is optionally substituted with optionally substituted aryl, CF_3 , Cl, F, OMe, OEt, OCF_3 , CN, or NMe_2 ;

C_{1-6} cycloalkyl, wherein 1-2 carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl is optionally replaced with $-O-$ or $-NR^5-$;

R^2 is C_{1-6} straight chained or branched alkyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halo, OCF_3 , CN, or CF_3 ;

R^4 is hydrogen, halo, OCF_3 , CN, or CF_3 ; and

each R^5 is independently H, C_{1-6} straight chained or branched alkyl, aryl, $-O-C_{1-6}$ straight chained or branched alkyl, or $-O$ -aryl.

[0137] The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions and methods using such compositions for treating a caspase-mediated disease, particularly in the central nervous system.